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Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance and Changing Consumption and Production Patterns

(New York, 4-8 March 1996)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The report of the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance and Changing Consumption and Production Patterns of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its meeting in New York from 4 to 8 March 1996 is not a negotiated text, although its contents were thoroughly discussed at the meeting. In accordance with the expert nature of the Working Group and the function assigned to it by the Commission, the present report focuses on the key issues discussed and conclusions reached at the meeting, and suggests possible recommendations and policy options for consideration by the Commission at its fourth session.

I. INTERLINKAGES

2. The Working Group noted that there were a number of issues common to both chapters of Agenda 21 1/ under review (chapter 4, "Changing consumption patterns", and chapter 33, "Financial resources and mechanisms"). The Working Group highlighted three key interlinkages. First, at the macroeconomic level, savings are generated as a function of income and consumption. Such savings contribute to the national and international resources available for financing sustainable development, which includes economic and social development and the protection of environment. In many developing countries, however, such savings are limited in view of their low levels of income.

3. Second, the Working Group noted that changes in consumption and production patterns could result in the sustainable utilization of natural resources, through their transformation into products and services for the equitable benefit of all countries, as well as in the prevention and mitigation of the environmental, health and social costs of pollution.

4. Third, the Working Group noted that economic instruments can serve a dual purpose: they may be implemented as part of an incentive/disincentive framework to encourage changes in consumption and production patterns, or they may be used in addition to other instruments to generate revenues for financing sustainable development.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CHAPTER 4 OF AGENDA 21 ON CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

A. General considerations

5. The discussions of the Working Group were based on the report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (E/CN.17/1996/5 and Add.1), and took into account chapter 4 of Agenda 21, in particular paragraphs 4.3 and 4.8. The Working Group welcomed the progress made in implementing the work programme agreed at the third session of the Commission, and generally supported the proposed recommendations for its further implementation with the full involvement of appropriate United Nations agencies

and other international bodies while noting the need to clarify and elaborate on some of them.

6. The Working Group noted the trend towards a global consensus on the importance of changing consumption and production patterns, and also noted that many countries - developed, developing and economies in transition - had reported on national initiatives to make consumption and production patterns more sustainable. It welcomed efforts undertaken by various countries in making use of instruments proposed by the Commission and recommended that the exchange of experience in that field continue.

7. Discussions reflected the recognition that industrialized countries should take the lead, as some of them already had, and that such countries had a responsibility to demonstrate that resource efficient, low pollution consumption and production patterns were feasible, desirable and essential for progress in achieving sustainable development, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

8. In accordance with chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21, the Working Group urged the international community, in particular the developed countries, to provide improved access to financial resources and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in order to assist them in their efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

9. The Working Group acknowledged the progress made by various countries in the development of national policies intended to change consumption and production patterns, and welcomed the fact that the earlier emphasis on production was being broadened with demand-side measures directed to all end-users, including Governments, households and businesses. In addition, it urged that more attention be given to the role that media, advertising and marketing were playing in shaping unsustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as to the role that they could play in changing such patterns. The Working Group encouraged countries to report to the Commission on national experiences in that area.

10. The Working Group noted that education (covered under chapter 36 of Agenda 21) was on the agenda of the fourth session of the Commission, and it emphasized the importance of school curricula and public awareness campaigns for the promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

11. The Working Group took note of the concept of eco-efficiency as a possible element in policy development. The definition of that concept, in combination, inter alia, with goal-setting, merited further exploration, taking into account national priorities and policies. At the same time, it was noted that initiatives in the field of eco-efficiency should not be a substitute for changes in unsustainable consumer lifestyles. In addition, the concepts of carrying capacity, 2/ environmental utilization space or eco-space 3/ and ecological footprints 4/ should be further explored for their potential usefulness in considering such goals and addressing equity issues in sustainable development strategies.

12. The Working Group noted that patterns for consumption and production could be part of major trends driven by market forces. The most effective method of changing such patterns would often be based on step-by-step policy adjustments, using market instruments to promote sustainability in connection with other means, such as education.

13. The Working Group reaffirmed the importance of sound analysis and transparent and participative decision-making in national and international policy development in the area of changing consumption and production patterns, in particular on such questions as trade impacts, technology transfer and foreign direct investment.

14. The Working Group stressed the important need for developing countries to be involved in the studies being conducted on the various economic instruments, since their applications were relevant under many circumstances. Due to the critical lack of resources and capacity in developing countries for the formulation and implementation of such policy instruments, the need for external support was urgent.

15. The Working Group recommended that the Commission, as part of its programme of work, consider how to translate studies and discussions on changing consumption and production patterns into specific actions and commitments in order to respond to the provisions of chapter 4 of Agenda 21.

16. The Working Group noted the importance for developing countries of the transfer of technology and entrepreneurial skills for sustainable development, and urged that barriers to such transfer be identified and removed, where appropriate, by mutual consultations between parties.

B. Identifying the policy implications of trends and projections in consumption and production patterns

17. The Working Group recognized the need to ensure a better understanding of and adequate information about the linkages between consumption patterns and socio-economic trends, and welcomed the initiative to develop an indicative, quantitative, integrated and well-balanced modelling framework for achieving the objectives of sustainable development, involving experts from developed and developing countries.

18. It was stressed that work on the policy implications of projected trends in consumption and production patterns of the work programme would benefit from the ongoing work on indicators for sustainable development.

C. Assessing the impact on developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, of changes in consumption and production patterns in developed countries

19. The Working Group reaffirmed the importance of that element of the work programme. It concluded that work should concentrate first on understanding and

defining such impacts, and then on two key elements: (a) the mitigation of adverse economic, social and environmental impacts, and (b) the identification and encouragement of new trade and investment opportunities. Particular attention should be given to ensuring the transparency of decision-making and the availability of information to all interested parties.

20. New and innovative policy instruments, such as eco-labels, extended and shared producer responsibility (for example, the consideration of life-cycle impacts at the design stage of production and producer take-back requirements), enhanced recycling schemes and life-cycle management, could stimulate more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Such instruments should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade. The Working Group felt that the design and implementation of such instruments should be transparent and would need careful assessment and consultation so as to reflect the concerns of all countries involved. The Group emphasized that eco-labelling would need to be approached in a manner that took into account the special situation and needs of developing countries and the specific requirements of countries with economies in transition. In that context, the Group also noted that domestic eco-labelling, adopted at national discretion within countries and on a voluntary basis, remained an important strategy for promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns.

21. The Working Group welcomed the work of the United Nations related to sustainable consumption and production, in particular that of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and other relevant bodies, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and stressed the need to build on existing expertise. It urged Governments to support and strengthen further work in that area, including further study, with the participation of developing countries, of the feasibility of internationally recommended guidelines for eco-labelling schemes, taking into account work being conducted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Guidelines should take full account of the needs of developing countries and their ability to benefit from such an instrument, including through transitional measures, as appropriate, and through the promotion on a sustainable basis of goods related to relevant and endangered eco-systems with a view to generating economic opportunities for the local population.

D. Evaluating the effectiveness of policy measures intended to change consumption and production patterns

22. The Working Group agreed that there was no uniform blueprint for the implementation of effective policies to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns. The effectiveness of instruments differed according to the environmental, economic and sociocultural circumstances of different countries.

23. The Working Group encouraged Governments, relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and OECD, as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations with good data and knowledge of the development and implementation of policies for changing

consumption and production patterns (such as by facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technologies) to establish or contribute to an information clearing-house with specific objectives for sharing experience with policy instruments, including economic instruments, and their impacts, including case-studies, to be made accessible through the World Wide Web.

24. The Working Group emphasized the need to analyse further the design of optimal combinations of regulatory, voluntary, economic and social instruments and policies, and the need to focus on those that could both generate revenue and send signals to the market to help change unsustainable consumption and production patterns. It recognized the merits and drawbacks of different instruments available, and concluded that more efforts were required, in particular with regard to education, consumer awareness, procurement policies and fiscal instruments, and invited countries to report to the Commission on national experiences.

25. The Working Group urged Governments to devote adequate attention to the reduction and, where possible, the removal of environmentally damaging subsidies. The design of programmes for reducing subsidies, particularly in developing countries, needed to take into account and address associated adverse and social impacts, and in-depth studies should be undertaken to that end.

E. Progress made in implementing voluntary commitments to achieving sustainable development goals that have an especially high priority at the national level

26. The Working Group noted that a comprehensive systematic overview of progress achieved by countries was valuable for fostering policy development in all regions of the world. Special attention should be given to measures that were designed and implemented to improve the environmental performance of Governments, including special measures for improving indicators for sustainable development. The Working Group drew attention to UNEP decision 18/10 on good environment housekeeping within the United Nations system.

27. The Working Group welcomed efforts under way among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, such as UNCTAD and UNEP, as well as other international organizations, including OECD, to develop a database for reporting to the Commission on new developments in the broad strategies being implemented to achieve key measurable objectives of sustainable consumption and production.

28. The Working Group recommended that Governments report on progress made in international cooperation to increase eco-efficient management practices and technology transfer among developed and developing countries and countries in transition.

F. Revision of the guidelines for consumer protection

29. The Working Group recognized the important role that the guidelines for consumer protection adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985 had played in influencing the development of

national consumer legislation that emphasized producer responsibility. It encouraged the United Nations Secretariat to promote a transparent process, involving all interested parties, including business, consumer organizations and other non-governmental organizations, in the revision of the guidelines; requested that information be provided as soon as available on plans and proposals for such revision; and expressed the hope that a first result of the exercise would be ready for consideration by 1997.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CHAPTER 33 OF AGENDA 21 ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

A. General considerations

30. The discussion of the Working Group was based on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Financial resources and mechanisms for sustainable development: overview of current issues and developments (E/CN.17/1996/4 and Add.1). The discussion also benefited from the report of the Third Expert Group Meeting on Financial Issues of Agenda 21 (Manila, 6-8 February 1996) and a background paper on financial flow statistics and inputs provided by non-governmental organizations.

31. The Working Group reviewed the financing of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on mobilizing external and national financial resources for sustainable development, the feasibility of innovative financial mechanisms, financing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and the matrix of policy options and financial instruments.

32. There was a general consensus that the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on new and additional resources remained a key element of the discussion on financial resources and mechanisms. It was stressed that chapter 33 of Agenda 21 provided the framework for the discussion of various current and emerging issues, and that that framework was clear enough to take into consideration new developments, including the decline in official development assistance (ODA) relative to gross national product (GNP) and the increase of private flows to some developing countries.

B. Mobilizing external financial resources for sustainable development

33. The Working Group emphasized the need to fulfil all financial recommendations and commitments of Agenda 21, especially those in chapter 33, including those related to the provision of substantial and predictable, new and additional financial resources to developing countries from all sources. The Group attached importance to the decision of the Commission at its third session to promote, inter alia, new approaches to enhancing the effectiveness of ODA and increasing it within relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with the objective of achieving the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, as reaffirmed in paragraph 33.13 of Agenda 21, as soon as possible.

34. In that context, donor countries should promote greater public awareness of commitments concerning ODA as set forth in chapter 33 of Agenda 21, in particular through the sensitization of their public and private sectors, and central and local governments.

35. To better understand the contribution of ODA to the interlinked components of sustainable development, ODA flows should be further examined on a continuing basis, particularly with respect to their allocation among such components.

36. The Working Group recognized that ODA had a special role to play in countries and sectors that did not fully benefit from private investments and markets, especially in the least developed countries.

37. The effectiveness of ODA should be improved by various means, including the leveraging of private-sector investments from national and external sources, which could be achieved by co-financing and other partnership arrangements. The effectiveness of ODA could also be enhanced by tailoring it to the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries.

38. The Working Group emphasized that bilateral aid agencies, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral financial institutions should become more proactive in promoting sustainable development, and should enhance their cooperation and coordination efforts to increase their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of Agenda 21, particularly the mobilization of financial resources, including through collaboration with host countries on the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies. In structural adjustment programmes, for example, authorities in developing countries were encouraged to give more consideration to their economic, social and environmental impacts, taking into account Commitment 8 of the Copenhagen Declaration adopted at the World Summit for Social Development. 5/

39. The Working Group acknowledged the positive aspects of the expansion of foreign private capital flows to some developing countries, while at the same time expressing concern about their volatility, distribution across countries and real contribution to sustainable development. It was recognized that the increase, widespread distribution and sustainability of foreign private capital to all developing countries depended, to a considerable extent, on national sustainable development strategies, including appropriate national economic and social policies, as well as on a conducive international economic environment.

40. The Working Group recognized that a variety of political, economic, social and environmental factors, including the profit orientation of private investors and the need for stable and conducive conditions for investment, together influenced the effective fostering of sustainable development through foreign private capital flows to developing countries.

41. The Working Group emphasized that foreign private capital flows should complement but not substitute ODA, and stressed the need to conduct a deeper analysis in order to better understand their social, distributional, economic and environmental impacts of such flows on sustainable development.

42. The Working Group emphasized that the ability of developing countries to attract private flows also depended on enhancing international cooperation to establish a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries. Taking account of General Assembly resolution 50/92, in particular, operative paragraphs 13, 14, 20 and 21, consideration should be given to comprehensive approaches to assisting low-income developing countries with substantial multilateral debt problems, through the flexible implementation of existing instruments and new mechanisms, where appropriate.

43. The Working Group also stressed the need to further examine the potential of debt-for-nature and debt-for-development swaps and related mechanisms for assisting in the financing of sustainable development.

C. Mobilizing national financial resources for sustainable development

44. Some countries had shown considerable progress in mobilizing domestic financial resources, as complemented by external financial resources, as well as in implementing economic instruments and adopting other policy measures. However, external resources, including ODA, remained essential for achieving sustainable development in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries.

45. The Working Group emphasized the importance of the participation of the private sector in sustainable development, in particular through increased investments, and emphasized that policies that promoted such participation also promoted foreign direct investment. In particular, sound and predictable macroeconomic and environmental policies at the national and international levels reduced risk for private investors. Such national policies should be promoted as part of national sustainable development strategies. In addition, trade liberalization and an appropriate legal framework that protected private property rights were required. Governments should also strive, as appropriate, to develop their domestic financial markets to strengthen national saving capacity and mobilize resources effectively; to that end, cooperation with bilateral aid agencies and relevant international organizations could be considered. The Working Group noted that the financial services industry was gaining in importance in the environmental management practices of its business clients. The Group welcomed the initial work of UNEP in that field, and suggested that UNEP further disseminate two recent statements on the banking and insurance services industries.

46. The Working Group stressed the need to promote the creation of favourable conditions for achieving stability in international private capital flows and preventing the destabilization that resulted from swift movements of private capital flows.

47. To further promote private-sector participation, innovative mechanisms, such as build-operate-transfer (BOT) and similar mechanisms, should be utilized more widely for financing infrastructure projects for sustainable development. Furthermore, the privatization of public enterprises and contracting out of

services should be fostered, as appropriate, taking into consideration the different conditions and circumstances of countries.

48. The Working Group noted that the application of economic instruments in a number of countries generally yielded satisfactory results in practice, and encouraged Governments to consider, on a voluntary basis, the gradual implementation of such instruments, based on practical experience of a number of countries. Since social and distributional impacts were difficult to measure, however, the Working Group encouraged the further study of such effects and sharing of national experiences in that area. For example, countries could be invited to report to the Commission on their experiences concerning the economic, social and other effects of environmental taxes.

49. Studies on the impact of subsidies on sustainable development should be further promoted to provide a better basis for policy makers to identify and gradually abolish subsidies that had clear negative impacts on economic efficiency and contributed to environmental degradation. Such studies, inter alia, should assess the economic, social, distributional and environmental impacts of subsidy reduction, taking into account the specific circumstances of developing countries.

50. The Working Group recognized the need to study the potential impacts of ecological tax reform on international competitiveness, including impacts related to subsidy reduction and national environmental taxes. To that end, studies should continue to be pursued to examine the viability, practicality and modalities of efforts, including voluntary step-by-step international consultations, as appropriate, that would facilitate ecological tax reforms to promote sustainable development.

51. The Working Group emphasized that pollution abatement funds (PAFs) should improve their performance by greater use of project evaluation techniques. Cost-sharing by recipients of PAFs and gradually reducing the concessional element in the terms of disbursement should also be considered. As to conservation trust funds, a detailed cross-country performance review should be undertaken to identify how such funds could be made more cost-effective mechanisms for environmental conservation. Such a review should contain recommendations for simplifying the administrative framework of such funds, as well as strategies for leveraging their financial resources with other sources of financing.

D. Feasibility of innovative mechanisms for financing sustainable development

52. The Working Group discussed the feasibility of various innovative mechanisms for financing sustainable development and contributing to meeting the needs of developing countries, including an internationally agreed tax on air transport, international carbon taxes, activities implemented jointly as they related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I), and tradeable carbon dioxide permit schemes. The Tobin tax was also considered. The Working Group emphasized that it was important to examine the feasibility of such mechanisms,

including by broadening the scope of examination to encompass all aspects - economic, social and environmental - of sustainable development, while pursuing efforts to increase ODA, replenish the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in a substantial way and encourage private-sector investment. The Working Group noted that there might be other innovative mechanisms that needed to be considered in such studies, including in the area of international transportation of oil, toxic substances and hazardous materials. In addition, the Working Group stressed the importance of continuing studies on the possible roles of insurance companies and alternative banking in facilitating the financing of sustainable development in developing countries.

53. The Working Group noted the progress that had been made in clarifying many technical issues related to such mechanisms, and encouraged the continuation of studies involving the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, OECD, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, the International Civil Aviation Organization and other institutions so as to ensure further progress towards understanding the prospects for and requirements of practical implementation.

54. The Working Group welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to include an agenda item entitled "New and innovative ideas for generating funds" at its substantive session of 1996, and recommended that the report of the Third Expert Group Meeting on Financial Issues of Agenda 21 be made available for the discussion of the item by the Council.

E. Financing the transfer of environmentally sound technologies

55. The Working Group emphasized that financing for environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) should come from national public and private resources; external resources, such as ODA and foreign direct investment; and innovative mechanisms, such as venture capital and trust funds. In pursuance of chapter 34 of Agenda 21, in particular, paragraph 34.14 (b), as well as to meet the needs of developing countries, technology transfer efforts should be enhanced within a stable and predictable economic environment that would ensure the identification and development of markets for ESTs, supported by appropriate national and international economic policies. Cooperating, where appropriate, with bilateral aid agencies, international organizations and financial institutions, Governments should also endeavour to formulate and implement an appropriate legal framework for protecting intellectual property rights, taking into account the special needs of developing countries. International organizations, in particular financial institutions, should assist Governments in developing and implementing technical assistance programmes that helped buyers and sellers of technology to identify each other, reduced pre-investment costs by providing technical, financial, and legal expertise, and identified and supported projects that demonstrated and commercialized ESTs in specific sectors. Finally the Working Group reiterated the need to conduct further studies on the practical feasibility of establishing EST right banks and other publicly funded intermediaries for technology transfer in particular to assist developing countries in gaining ready access to ESTs and promoting markets for local technologies.

F. Matrix of policy options and financial instruments

56. While expressing some reservations on the use of economic instruments, the Working Group encouraged the conduct of further work on the matrix approach, such as the incorporation of quantitative assessments, including the revenue potential of economic instruments and their potential for contributing to meeting the objectives of sustainable development. In addition, it recommended the development of a matrix that would provide a detailed overview of the use of economic instruments in different groups of countries. The matrix approach could provide a format or framework for the voluntary exchange of national experience and information among member States on the costs and benefits experienced in the application of different instruments. It could also be desirable to broaden the coverage of the matrix by including, in so far as practicable, such issues as enhancing the rights of and benefits to traditional and indigenous holders of technology, and the use of global commons.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of session

57. The Working Group met at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 8 March 1996, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1995/235 of 17 July 1995. The Working Group held 9 meetings (1st to 9th).

58. The session was opened by the Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan).

59. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat made an opening statement.

60. The Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Lin See-Yan (Malaysia), made a statement.

B. Attendance

61. Representatives of 32 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development attended the meetings of the Working Group. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States and the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in the annex to the present report.

C. Election of officers

62. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Working Group re-elected by acclamation Mr. Lin See-Yan (Malaysia) as Chairman.

D. Agenda and organization of work

63. At the 1st meeting, on 4 March, the Working Group adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.17/ISWG.II/1996/1). The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Changing consumption patterns (Agenda 21, chapter 4).

3. Financial resources and mechanisms (Agenda 21, chapter 33).

4. Other matters.

5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

E. Documentation

64. The Working Group had before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Financial resources and mechanisms for sustainable development: overview of current issues and developments" (E/CN.17/1996/4 and Add.1), and the report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption and production patterns (E/CN.17/1996/5 and Add.1), as well as a number of background papers.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ A defined environment's maximum persistently supportable load, usually expressed in terms of population numbers of a defined species, definition contained in the final report of an OECD workshop on the theme "Sustainable consumption and production: clarifying the concepts", held in Rosendal, Norway, 2-4 July 1995.

3/ The capacity of the biosphere's environmental functions to support human activities, sometimes defined at a national or per capita level according to a "global fair shares" principle, definition contained in ibid.

4/ The area of land functionally required to support a community which lies beyond the land occupied by that community, definition contained in ibid.

5/ See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.167/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

Annex

ATTENDANCE

Members

Antigua and Barbuda:	
Australia:	Joanne Disano, Sean Sullivan, Karen Lanyon, Mark Gray
Bahamas:	
Bangladesh:	
Barbados:	
Belarus:	
Belgium:	Alex Reyn, H. Brauwers, G. Pichot, L. Coppens, N. Gouzee, J. Engelen, J. De Mulder
Benin:	Joel Adechi, Damien Houeto, Rhétice F. Dagba, Rogatien Biaou, Bienvenu E. Accrombessi, Pascal I. Sossou, Paul H. Houansou
Bolivia:	
Brazil:	Henrique Valle, Leonel Graca Generoso Pereira, Eduardo Paes Saboia
Bulgaria:	
Burundi:	
Canada:	Claud Baillargeon, Brigita Gravitis, Jennifer Irish, Henry Pawlak, James Riordan, Guy Rochon, Alain Tellier, Carmel Whelton
Central African Republic:	
China:	Wang Baoliu
Colombia:	Julio Londoño, Jairo Montoya, Paula Caballero, Bibiana Vargas, Maria Fernanda Acosta
Ethiopia:	
Finland:	Taisto Huimasalo, Jaakko Halttunen, Camilla Lommi-Kippola, Minna Wilkki

France:	Marc Vedele, Mauricette Steinfelder, Philippe Delacroix
Gabon:	
Germany:	Hans Peter Schipulle, Ortwin Gottsmann, Rainald Roesch, Knut Beyer, Andreas Kruger, Peter Christmann
Ghana:	D. K. Berkoh
Guinea:	
Guyana:	S. R. Insanally, G. Talbot, K. Simon
Hungary:	
India:	Arun K. Singh
Iran (Islamic Republic of):	Mohammad Reza H. K. Jabbary
Italy:	Francesco Paolo Fulci, Giusepe Jacoangeli, Alberto Colella, Francesco Genuardi, Paola Pettinari, Roberto Malaman
Japan:	Takao Shibata, Toshiko Ohga
Malaysia:	Lin See Yan
Mexico:	Gerardo Lozano, Oscar Manuel Ramirez Flores, Jonathan Edward Ryan, Luisa Montes, Margarita Paras, Uises Canchola
Morocco:	Ahmed Snoussi, Ahmed Amaziane
Mozambique:	
Netherlands:	A. P. Hamburger, J. J. Neeteson, M. K. de Jong, G. A. C. M. Braken, C. W. M. Lander, R. Droop, B. de Leeuw, H. Th. H. Verheij, R. H. Dekker
Pakistan:	Ahmed Kamal, Muhammad Zafarullah Khan, M. Masood Khan, Navid Hamif
Papua New Guinea:	Utula U. Samana, Max H. Rai, Kappa Yarka, Adam V. Delaney, Francis Mangila
Peru:	Ana Peña, Italo Acha
Philippines:	Felipe Mabilangan, Cecilia B. Rebong, Eugenio Inocentes, Glenn F. Corpin

Poland:	Jan Woroniecki, Czeslaw Wieckowski, Leszek Banaszak, Joanna Wronecka, Anna Raduchowska-Brochwicz, Dariusz S. Stanislawski
Russian Federation:	Andrey Melekh
Saudi Arabia:	
Senegal:	
Spain:	Arturo Laclaustra, Alicia Montalvo, María José Gomez, Carlos Dominguez, Amparo Rambla, Miguel Aguirre de Carcer
Sweden:	Michael Odevall, Svante Bodin, Ulf Svensson, Anders Berntell, Per Enarsson, Ulf Ottosson, Marcela Petkov, Maria Sargren
Switzerland:	Yvonne Baumann
Thailand:	Oraphin Wongchumpit, Apichai Chvajarernpun, Manopchai Vongphakdi, Gregory B. Votaw
Uganda:	
Ukraine:	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	John Weston, Stephen Gomersall, Ann Grant, Victoria Harris, Peter Unwin, Alan Simcock, Donald Maclaren, Peter Dearden, Anthony Smith, Chris Tompkins
United Republic of Tanzania:	
United States of America:	John McGuinness, Donald Brown, Bisa Williams-Manigault
Venezuela:	
Zimbabwe:	

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Slovakia, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey and Viet Nam

Non-member States and entities represented by an observer

European Community

United Nations Secretariat

United Nations Environment Programme

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency

International organizations

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Non-governmental organizations

International Chamber of Commerce (category I), Friends of the Earth (Roster), Netherlands National Committee for IUCN, Women's Environment Development Organization (accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development)